



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035

Suite 530
12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PARKWAY
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071

TELEPHONE 703- 324-2321
FAX 703- 324-3955

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

To the Citizens of Fairfax County:

I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 2007 Adopted Budget Plan. This budget meets the diverse and varied needs of our community funding our core requirements, while also providing tax relief through another major reduction in the real estate tax rate and the elimination of the personal property tax decal fee. The FY 2007 Budget contains \$3.2 billion in General Fund Disbursements, an increase of 6.37 percent over the FY 2006 Adopted Budget Plan.

Following the Board of Supervisors' historic 13 cent real estate rate cut in FY 2006, the Board approved an additional 11 cent rate cut for FY 2007, bringing the rate to its lowest ever level of \$0.89 per \$100 assessed value. Since FY 2002, the Board has cut 34 cents off of the real estate tax rate for a cumulative average household savings of \$3,512 based on the FY 2001 real estate tax rate of \$1.23 per \$100 assessed value.

In addition, current technology now permits Fairfax to verify personal property tax payments without the use of a vehicle decal, therefore the FY 2007 budget eliminates the need to purchase and display windshield decals. Although several other Virginia jurisdictions have already removed their own vehicle decal display requirements, Fairfax is the first in Virginia to completely eliminate the associated decal fee.

The education of our children remains our primary focus, comprising almost 52 percent of the County's General Fund, or \$1.67 billion. This includes an increase of 6.6 percent over the FY 2006 School transfer, and addresses the Schools' critical needs including increased compensation in order to better retain our highly educated teachers, and adding all-day kindergarten to six additional schools. This budget commits to full funding of the Initiative for Excellence to enhance teachers' compensation.

Gang prevention is also a priority in the FY 2007 budget. In furtherance of our goal of improving our gang prevention and intervention efforts, we have increased the middle-school after-school programs from three days a week in some schools to a full five days a week in every middle school. Providing our children with safe, productive and beneficial alternatives is an important component in improving our children's opportunities and an important tool in combating the destructive lure of youth violence and gang participation.

The FY 2007 budget continues our strong commitment to maintaining our overall public safety. To better serve and protect our growing population, we will add 49 new police positions and 40 fire positions. This budget includes staffing for three new fire stations to be opened by 2008.

In furtherance of our commitment to the preservation of Affordable Housing, the Board continued the approval of a one-penny dedication on the real estate tax rate towards those efforts. Begun in FY 2006 with \$17.9 million, that funding has helped the County meet and exceed our goal of preserving 1,000 affordable housing units in four years that would have otherwise been lost.

Our ongoing environmental efforts will be furthered through the continuance of the dedication of another penny on the real estate tax rate towards the assessment and repair of stormwater infrastructure, as well as various water quality improvement measures. These efforts, which include stream restoration and watershed improvements, will help us comply with new federal and state mandates to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The FY 2007 budget also includes funding for a variety of important County needs including: six additional School Age Child Care (SACC) rooms, a bicycle coordinator to promote transportation alternatives, an arts grant to enhance support of the arts in our community, and increased funding in support of FAIRFAX CONNECTOR.

Preparing and adopting a budget always represents a balance between maintaining the critical investments in our quality of life and the need to provide major, meaningful tax relief to our citizens. The Fiscal Year 2007 budget is the result of the hard work and dedication of many people and amply reflects that balance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Connolly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "C".

Gerald E. Connolly